

Newspaper "Employment" Contract

Advisor: Mrs. Sara Wellman-High Horse

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Journalism is a class, but it is more like a job. We learn and hone skills and work as a team to produce the school newspaper, a product that is a direct reflection of our school and student body. We ALL learn about the structure of a newspaper and journalism writing, take pictures, interview people, write stories, design layout, print, fold and distribute our newspaper. All of this is done on deadline and not all of it can be done during class time.

This class (this job) may require students to perform work outside of the school day, such as be present at school functions to take pictures, stay after school to meet a deadline, attend a workshop, fulfill class lesson assignments, etc. But, it's all part of the job to run a successful student newspaper.

I, _____, understand the responsibilities of being a member of the school newspaper and that I will be called on from time to time to perform a task outside of class.

Student signature _____

Printing a quality newspaper and producing podcasts and news videos are the goals for this class. We work as a team to get this done ON TIME. Everyone has multiple jobs to do. Unlike other classes, if you fail to do your work, it will impact the entire project. What you DIDN'T do still must be done by someone else. It is important that everyone takes his or her responsibilities seriously.

Because journalism is such a unique class with everyone working independently, it is difficult to grade. So, ***you will be grading yourselves*** by keeping a running list of everything you do in a grading folder. (Note: I will keep track of the grades for class assignments.) A point system will be assigned to each task, and you will receive a grade based on the total points earned.

Your grade will be figured using the following scale (it will be adjusted according to the workload that quarter):

470-500 points A

450-469 points B+

430-449 points B

410-429 points C+

390-409 points C

370-389 points D+

350-369 points D

Below 349 point F

How do you earn points? Here's what you can do (but not limited to):

- **50 points** – Writing/producing an in-depth, comprehensive rough draft story on time (see grading rubric)
- **50 points** – Take 10 thoughtful pictures for a newspaper story or website
- **30 points** – Complete newspaper layout (including headlines, placing photos, writing captions)
- **25 points** - Turn in thorough and thoughtful story planner – on time!
- **15 points** – Use Photoshop
- **10 points** – If the photo you took has been published in the newspaper, online blog, in a news video
- **10 points** – Download pictures from camera (organize and name files)
- **10 points** for adequately editing someone else's work – rough draft stage
- **10 points** for adequately editing final draft stage
- **5 points** for each story idea suggested
- **5 points** for folding/stuffing pages
- **5 points** for helping someone.
- **15 points.** Mrs. Wellman-High Horse will give points to newspaper story final drafts based on length, effort, sources cited, creative writing, spelling and grammar.
- **25 points.** Mrs. Wellman-High Horse will give points for podcast and video final productions based on editing, organization, intro and exit music, comprehensive, well-reported story and effort
- **10 points** for specifying the type of lead in your story: inverted pyramid, descriptive, or anecdotal AND explaining why you chose this particular type of lead/prove it.

Points will also be accrued through various journalism lessons.

More opportunities will arise as the year progresses. Just be sure you keep track of EVERYTHING in your folder. To keep us all accountable, point sheets need to be submitted to Ms. Wellman every Friday. Students need to earn 53-55 points a week to maintain an A (pending your grade on class assignments). The weekly points earned will be recorded in PowerSchool. If you exceed 55 points in a week, you can "rollover" the points. THE MORE YOU DO, THE BETTER YOUR GRADE!

Future Projects (with mucho points): FCHS News Blog, stories featured on school website (may be different than stories in monthly school newspaper).